



# PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

March 3, 2006

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SUBJECT: **PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
TO REGULATION 12, RULE 12: FLARES AT  
PETROLEUM REFINERIES**

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On **Wednesday, April 5, 2006**, the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of proposed amendments to **Regulation 12: Miscellaneous Standards Of Performance, Rule 12: Flares at Petroleum Refineries**. The hearing will be held in the 7th floor Board Room of the District Office, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco. **District Board meetings commence at 9:45 a.m.**

The proposed amendments are administrative in nature. If approved, they will change the timing for reporting flaring events of less than 500,000 standard cubic feet per calendar day of vent gas (scfd) but greater than 500 lbs per day sulfur dioxide. The change would require reporting of this lower-volume flaring to occur on the same schedule specified for flaring events greater than 500,000 scfd. Under the existing rule such lower-volume flaring must be reported annually beginning 12 months after approval of the initial Flare Minimization Plans (FMPs); the proposed amendments would require these lower-volume events to be reported within 60 days following the end of the month in which the flaring occurs, effective upon adoption. The proposal would also clarify that application of the determination and reporting of cause provision for refineries with cascade, staged or backup flare systems and that a causal analysis must include the volume of vent gas flared and the calculated emissions (methane, non-methane hydrocarbon and sulfur dioxide).

The proposed amendments to Regulation 12, Rule 12 were made available to the public for a thirty day comment period on December 23, 2005. Comments on the proposed amendments were considered by staff and changes were made to add clarity. The proposed amendments are necessary to ensure that the prevention measures developed as the result of investigations into lower-volume flaring are incorporated into the initial FMPs; to clarify the application of the causal analysis provision for refineries with cascade and backup systems; and to ensure that vent gas volume and event emissions are included in a flaring event report.

The District has determined that the proposed amendments to Regulation 12, Rule 12 are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3). The amendments are administrative in nature and it can be seen with certainty to have no possibility of causing significant environmental effects. The District intends to file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines section 15062.

The proposed amendments and a staff report are available on the District's web site at [http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/ruledev/regulatory\\_public\\_hearings.htm](http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/ruledev/regulatory_public_hearings.htm). Copies of these documents may also be requested by calling Lilia Martinez at (415) 749-4664.

Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Alex Ezersky, Principal Air Quality Specialist, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, California, 91409, telephone (415) 749-4650, fax (415) 749-4741, or e-mail at [aezersky@baamgd.gov](mailto:aezersky@baamgd.gov). Written comments on the regulatory proposal will be accepted until 5:00 pm on Monday, March 27, 2006.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

**MUNI -- #47 AND 49 NORTH AND SOUTH ON VAN NESS AVENUE**

**BART -- CIVIC CENTER STATION 8TH AND MARKET STREETS**

Attendees are encouraged to ride public transit, rideshare, bicycle, walk or use other non-motorized modes to and from the District.